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of the old rule of the regulars forbidding consultation with homœopaths is tending still further to wipe away the distinctions between the two. There are also many homœopaths who would give up that title as no longer describing their school in its later development. They would call themselves the New School, and yet there does not seem to be a logical reason for any separation at all in the ranks of medicine if on all sides the principle announced by the Ward's Island staff is adopted and followed.

It is fortunate for the healing art that such substantial union is the plain drift of the period. That art is old, and yet its greatest progress has been made within very recent years; and along lines now pursued its future advance is sure to be even more rapid. But this progress requires that investigation and experiment shall not be hampered by theory. There should only be one school of medicine, the school which addresses itself to making a science of the art.

[NOTE.—We specially comment the above extract to the attention of our readers.

It gives a good idea of the humiliating spectacle the homœopathic school presents before the world by reason of the atrocious conduct and teachings of men who only pretend to practice Homœopathy; but who really despise the system as much as the most hostile practitioner of the old school.—Eds.]

BENNINGHAUSEN AND LIPPE.

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In an article in the *Medical Advance*, a year or so ago, under the above title, a false impression is unintentionally given of the late Dr. Lippe as a homœopathic prescriber; we read: "But in some particulars his (Lippe's) methods differed so widely from those of Benninghausen that a comparison can scarcely do justice to either. The former was slower, more cautious, and, as they say, 'dug out the remedies' by hard work, and like all workers of that kind, made fewer mistakes." Further we read: "The one (L.) was often found exhibiting flashes of true genius in his searches for, and seizing upon the true remedy for his case; the other (B.), with utmost coolness and deliberation, sought for the secret of relationship between sicknesses and their causation, which when once struck was pursued with the pertinacity and unwearied persistency of the sleuth hound, till he found the true remedy for his case, and this he did with a certainty which came

[20]

near to uniform success." As we have said, these opinions give a false impression, especially to those who did not know Dr. Lippe personally. This impression has already borne fruit, for at the meeting of the I. H. A., of 1888, a speaker alluded to Dr. Lippe as "a flash prescriber." We reiterate, this view of Dr. Lippe's success is misleading. No physician can succeed in the practice of homœopathic medicine unless he studies and studies hard at that; no one knew this better than the late Dr. Ad. Lippe. He was endowed with the gift for drug analysis and a quickness of perception in discerning the symptoms of his patients which were the indicators for choosing his drug. The only other "genius" Dr. Lippe possessed was a disposition to work hard and a profound admiration for the *Organon*. There are few men of even moderate ability who cannot achieve all of Dr. Lippe's "genius" if they work as hard as he did and in the right way. Benninghausen was undoubtedly a grand prescriber, and it is an honor for any one to be compared with him; but we doubt if he, or any other physician, ever studied out his cases with more unvaried care than did the late Dr. Lippe. No flashes of genius could have enabled one to cure the many chronic cases which he cured; diligent, careful work is required to gain such results. The necessity for this diligent study of the *Materia Medica* was impressed upon Dr. Lippe by his preceptor, the late Dr. Wesselhoft; often have we heard him tell how his preceptor made him thumb his *Materia Medica*.

Often has the writer heard Dr. Lippe say, in speaking of different physicians, "he does not study his cases thoroughly," or make some such remark, indicating the importance he attached to such study. The writer was once associated with Dr. Lippe in the care of a very difficult case, in which he has frequently known him to spend hour after hour patiently consulting the *Materia Medica* (this, too, after nearly forty years spent at such study). Many a time would he say, "Come over to-night and we will study the case over," frequently have we asked his advice, and we fore replying he would almost invariably take down a book or two to look up the remedy desired. Dr. Ad. Lippe was in no sense "a flash prescriber."

Genius has been defined as an unlimited capacity for hard work; this genius Dr. Lippe had and used it diligently (and in the right way) for forty odd years. Was it then any wonder that he could occasionally prescribe quickly? He never prescribed until he felt sure of his remedy, and though he was quick in seeing the peculiar features of his patient's history, and rapid in selecting his remedy, he was never so quick as to be termed

careless. There is a distinction to be noted here; one man may spend hours on a case and then make a careless prescription; another with better trained mind may prescribe in a few minutes and make a very careful, accurate prescription.

We do not pretend to affirm that Dr. Lippe did not make mistakes; very probably he would have been the last man to deny legions of them; but we do believe that as a homeopathic prescriber neither Boeninghansen nor Hahnemann himself would suffer in comparing clinical results with their great admirer—Adolph Lippe.

ARGENTUM NITRICUM—MENTAL AND NERVOUS SYMPTOMS.

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Few remedies by their provings have shown greater affinity for the nervous system than Argentum-nitricum. Brain and spinal cord alike in a large number of provers evinced marked evidence of functional disturbance of a nature to produce serious organic lesions. To the consideration of some of these symptoms and their clinical significance we now invite your attention.

The mental symptoms developed, although not as numerous and varied as under many other drugs, are characteristic and important. Certain provers while under its influence seemed almost entirely devoid of brain power. Imbecile in appearance, their weakened memories, childish talk, and inability to fix their minds upon any subject, makes a vivid picture of dementia. In other provers various delusions of a depressing character appear, these, with their hypochondriacal anxiety about their sufferings, and belief that they are neglected and despised by their families, with fear of death and a belief that all their business schemes will fail, and their souls ultimately be lost, remind us of melancholia. Thoughts of suicide, especially by drowning, also occur. A peculiar mental anxiety is also developed, which forces the patient to be constantly busy, still he accomplishes nothing. Constantly in a hurry he hastens to fulfill every engagement, certain that he will be too late, although he may have an hour to spare.

A marked peculiarity of the drug is its development of illusions of sight, as, for instance, when walking the streets the corners of houses seem to project so that the person fears that he

will run against them. The sight of high houses causes dizziness, and the impression that the houses on both sides would approach and crush him. Another characteristic hallucination is that he sees snakes around him, upon himself and all the objects about him. Upon the strength of this hallucination we once cured a severe case of melancholia with Argent-nit. *cc* after numerous other drugs had utterly failed. Another symptom similar to that of fornication, common in many nervous diseases, is that of a creeping, crawling, itching sensation upon the scalp, as of vermin, or as if the roots of the hair were pulled, causing a constant desire to scratch.

While not as frequently demanded in mental as general nervous disease, when indicated Argentum-nit. will prove speedily and permanently efficacious.

Prominent among the head symptoms we find vertigo, appearing under different conditions.—Vertigo in the morning, as if she were turning in a circle, causing her to sit down to prevent falling; vertigo with complete, though transient, blindness, general debility of the limbs and trembling; vertigo and staggering gait; vertigo when walking with eyes closed. Stagers when walking in the dark; has to seize hold of things. On stooping while walking, he staggers. These symptoms of dizziness with defective co-ordination have been repeatedly verified, and have proven most valuable helps in the assignment of this drug to its most important place in therapeutics. Farrington asserts that vertigo is almost always present when Argent-nit. is the remedy.

Several important headaches also belong to this drug.

Among the provings we find excessive congestion of the head, with heaviness and stupefying dullness of the head. Pain in the head, the head appearing enlarged, if on only one side of the head the eye of the affected side appears enlarged. Boring and digging in the left frontal eminence. Digging and tumultuous raging in right hemisphere of brain until he lost his senses. Digging, cutting motion through left hemisphere of the brain, extending from the occiput to the frontal protuberance. Infraorbital neuralgia left side. Neuralgia of head and face, which always takes away her eyesight. In regard to these pains Farrington says: 'It is one of the best remedies we have for hemicrania. This is not a simple neuralgia. It is a deep-seated neurotic disease, and by some is supposed to be of epileptic nature. It comes periodically; for its relief the remedy under consideration is one of the best. There is frequently boring pain in the head, which is worse in the left frontal eminence.'